



Sam Brownback

UNITED STATES SENATOR ■ KANSAS

303 Hart Senate Office Building • Washington DC 20510 • (202) 224-8950
<http://www.senate.gov/~brownback>

News Release

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CONTACT ERIK HOTMIRE

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BROWNBACK COSPONSORS MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF ACT OF 2003

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today cosponsored the bipartisan Marriage Penalty Relief Act of 2003, a bill to provide important tax relief for married couples.

“Marriage should not be taxable, and yet under current law it is,” Brownback said. “Study after study has shown that children do best when they grow up in a stable home, raised by two parents who are committed to each other through marriage. The bottom line is that strong, stable marriages are good for our nation. Marriage is the bedrock of a civil society, and we should not undermine it.

“Married couples have waited too long for this relief, and it is time that we act on their behalf. For our children, for strong marriages, for almost half of America’s working families, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation,” Brownback said.

The legislation being introduced today accelerates the Marriage Penalty Relief Provisions in Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (EGTRRA) of 2001.

- (1) It eliminates the Marriage Penalty in the Standard Deduction.
- (2) It eliminates the Marriage Penalty in the 15-percent bracket.
- (3) It provides Marriage Penalty Relief for Earned Income Credit.
- (4) Finally, this legislation makes this Marriage Penalty Tax Relief permanent by repealing the Sunset Provision of EGTRRA as it relates to Marriage Penalty Relief.

The first three of these provisions have not yet gone into effect, and will not for a few more years. Passage of this legislation would make Marriage Penalty Relief effective in 2003.

The bill is cosponsored by Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Evan Bayh (D-IN), Brownback, Conrad Burns (R-MT), Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE).